

**SILVER SPRING
TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
October 8, 2009**

Item 1,2-Introductions/Agenda Review (additions/deletions): Members introduced themselves. Minutes were approved with minor changes.

Item 3 -Chair Comments: Mr. Wexler welcomed Steven Petruccelli, David Crawford and Ms. Ross from WMATA. Mr. Carlson explained that Mr. Petruccelli has been at the Friendship Heights TMD several times and apologized for the oversight of not bringing the WMATA team to the SSTMD AC sooner.

Item 4- WMATA update: Retired WMATA General Superintendent of Bus Operations, Steven Petruccelli introduced David Crawford superintendent of Montgomery Division and Dana Baker-Jones supervisor of Northern Division who was absent. Mr. Crawford and Ms. Jones are the information representatives for the Silver Spring Transit construction and the IOS. Mr. Crawford told the committee that Metro and Transit Police are aware of the Colesville Road left turning traffic signal problems. During rush hour the crossing guards have helped with the flow of traffic. He also introduced Q line manager Ms. Ross who will represent Montgomery Division in his absence.

Ms. Brecher asked if the Q line will be a designated Limited Stop Service. Because Ms. Ross has only been in the position as Q line manager for a week, Mr. Crawford said the Q line will be a Limited Stop Service. Even though his team has not met with planning, his team wants to divide service from Wheaton to Rockville to facilitate service. Mr. Crawford explained that the Q line is the most traffic impacted line in the system due to traffic, construction and, accidents- which is why it's very lacking in on time service. However the Next Bus service has help to monitor bus times due to customers calling for bus time information allowing Metro to track which buses are running late however Metro can't track why there late.

Mr. Petruccelli said that he hopes Q line congestion will be relieved with the BRT proposal passage. He also believes the ICC will relieve traffic congestion in the Olney area along Norbeck Road. The first segment of the ICC is due to open in June 2010. In response to Mr. Wexler comments about multi terminal communication Mr. Petruccelli said WMATA procedures allow for smooth communication such as system and division ticks and Line Platform Instructors (LPI) that train operators on new bus lines.

The IOS is running well and ridership is up. Mr. Wexler discussed the committee concerns with bus operator safety around the IOS and asked how Metro deal with operator safety and investigations. Mr. Crawford explained that in cases of serious safety complaints, Metro sends undercover employees from other divisions to observe and report back to Metro providing documentation for adverse action. For minor offences the operator is verbally reprimanded. Depending on the severity of the offence drivers can be sent back to training. Major offences include talking and eating while driving and minor offences include cutting off drivers. However repeat offenders with complaints once or twice a month can be subjected to stricter discipline.

Metro's training program of 8 weeks is the longest in the industry. Customer service and safety issues are stressed with 3 weeks of on road no passenger training then earning their CDL. Drivers then are placed in a division assignment with passenger training before becoming a bus operator. Due to the recent Metro rail and Pennsylvania and 7th Streets accidents, the training program has become more stringent. Mr. Carlson believes that metro has been doing very well running the IOS.

Item 5- Transportation Demand Overview: Sandra Brecher from Montgomery County, Commuter Services Section gave a presentation on Transit Services operations in Silver Spring promoting the mission of reducing traffic congestion.

After the presentation, Ms. Brecher explained in reference to Ms. Gilbert's question, that the Upcounty Bus depot proposed site has environmental issues leaving site construction uncertain. Ms. Brecher also discussed parking reduction provisions in Silver Spring; developers must reduce parking by 30% using a 2 phased 15% reduction system. Ms. Gilbert raised concerns about developers of residential sites paying into a parking system that does not fully provide parking for all of its residents. Ms. Brecher explained that developers have the option of not providing on site parking and can instead pay into an off site PLD which is different than the zoning reduction that Ms. Gilbert was referring to. Ms. Brecher also mentioned a Parking Study that will be looking into residential parking in urban areas for residential and commercial parking solutions.

Mr. Furgol asked if the County ever been fined by the EPA for not meeting air quality guidelines. Ms. Brecher said she did not believe so however she is not sure of COG's air quality guideline process and she would find out. Perhaps the reason why the county has not been fined is because air quality standards must be met by the region.

Ms. Brecher explained that the County Budget crisis has put in jeopardy all programs that the county provides funds such as Fareshare and SuperFareshare urging the board to be prepared that if these programs are cut then CSS will be coming to the committee for assistance regarding helping employers find and fund transportation programs for their employees.

Item 6- Meeting Schedule vote: The vote on meeting reduction was tabled till next month.

Item 7- Updates: TMD/DOT/Police/other County Updates: Ms. O'Steen commented that Car Free Day which was held on September 22, 2009 was a big success with 995 applications given out in the 1st 1 ½ hour, during the morning rush hour. Ms. Brecher commented on press coverage in the Post and Gazette on the event.

Mr. Carlson updated the board on the IOS stating there will be more activity due to utility placement such as sanitary, water and electric. The only problem with the IOS is public urination in the Bus terminals.